

### **REMARKS**

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 among Group I, claims 1, 8, and 10 (drawn to a trim press containing a punch and a die); Group II, claims 2-7 and 9 (drawn to a trim press containing a control circuitry); Group III, claims 11-18 (drawn to an article conveying, guiding, and locating device); Group IV, claims 23-25 (drawn to a trim press containing a knock lever mechanism); Group V, claims 29-31 (drawn to an article centering severing device containing a knock lever mechanism); and Group VI, claims 26-28 (drawn to an article conveying, guiding, and locating device containing a knock lever mechanism). Applicant hereby elects Group V, claims 29-31, for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 1-18 and 23-28 have been canceled without prejudice.

Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional, continuation, and/or continuation-in-part applications covering the non-elected claims 1-28.

**CONCLUSION**

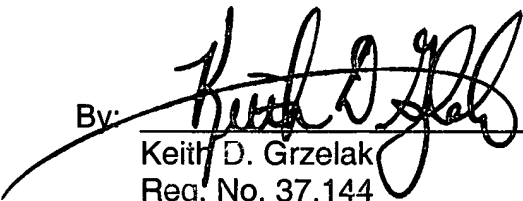
For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview before issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

12/24/02

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Keith D. Grzelak  
Reg. No. 37,144



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Application Serial No. .... JAN -3. 2003 ..... 09/686,714  
Filing Date ..... October 10, 2000  
Inventor ..... TC 3700 MAIL ROOM ..... Jere F. Irwin  
Assignee ..... None  
Group Art Unit ..... 3724  
Examiner ..... Stephen Choi  
Attorney's Docket No. .... IR3-012  
Title: "Apparatus and Method for Conveying, Guiding and Locating a  
Thermoformable Web"

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE ACCOMPANYING  
RESPONSE TO 11/25/02 OFFICE ACTION**

**In the Claims**

Claims 1-18 and 23-28 have been cancelled.

No claims have been amended. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~  
indicate deletions.

29. An article centering and severing device, comprising:
- a treadle including a web guide plate and a guide strip spaced from the guide plate;
  - a web conveyor having a drive motor, a drive wheel, and a follower wheel configured to co-rotate with the drive wheel to move a web therebetween; and
  - a knock lever mechanism having a knock lever arm configured to carry at least one of the drive wheel and the follower wheel, the knock lever arm configured to engage a platen as the treadle is moved relative to the platen during a severing operation so as to move the one of the drive wheel and the follower wheel away from another of the

drive wheel and the follower wheel to open up a gap therebetween and release a respective edge of the web during such severing operation.

30. The article centering and severing device of claim 29 wherein the knock lever mechanism comprises a kinematic linkage having a center pivot, wherein the lever arm is carried at one end of the kinematic linkage and a drive wheel is carried at an opposite end of the kinematic linkage.

31. The article centering and severing device of claim 29 wherein a pair of knock lever mechanisms are provided one on each edge of the treadle adjacent each respective edge of a web carried therebetween.

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